(c) The members of the Tobacco Board were selected as per provisions of 'Establishment and Constitution of the Board' under Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and rules on 'manner of filling Vacancies and terms of Office of Members' as provided under Rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1975.

(d) and (e) Recommendations for nomination to the Tobacco Board were obtained from the various State Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industrial Development and the Tobacco Board. Nominations were also received directly from individuals, public representatives and other interested bodies. The nominations received were scrutinised, in consultation with the Tobacco Board, to determine the fulfilment of legal requirements of the Act/Rules, and to provide due representation to important Tobacco growing areas, trade and industry.

Statement by Prime Minister regarding commitment towards WTO

*257. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his recent visit to France has made a statement that India would abide by the commitment made to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of Intellectual Property Rights and gradually do away with the quota system;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also announced that banking and insurance sectors would also be thrown open in due course; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the above is correct especially keeping in view the stand taken by Government in the Parliament on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) While interacting with Indian and French industry representatives at Paris, the Prime Minister had, inter-alia, clarified the status of our policy concerning India's fulfillment of obligations under WTO, consumer goods imports and reform of the insurance sector. On import policy he stated that the process of moving away from quantitative restrictions on consumer goods will take time because our priority at present is the liberalisation of imports for the infrastructure sectors. On insurance, the PM stated this is a matter on which some gradualness is needed.

The statements made by the Prime Minister are entirely consistent with the stand taken by the Government in the Parliament during the Budget Session and in reply to Parliament Questions.

Pension scheme for nationalised Bank employees

*258. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he announced a pension scheme for the employees of Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks Association entered into an agreement with the Employees' Union of Nationalised Banks on 29th October, 1993 for enforcing the pension scheme with effect from 1st November, 1993;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme has so far not been implemented; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will direct the Nationalised Banks to enforce this scheme with effect from a specific date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of the proposed Pension Scheme for the Bank employees involves certain formalities which are at various stages of completion. The Pension Scheme will become operational as soon as the requisite formalities are completed.

ISI Marks on mosquito repellants

*259. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of brands of mosquito repellants available in the market do not carry the ISI mark for quality and safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that constant exposure to their smoke is harmful to the health of its users; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make them safer for the users?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards have published two Standards for Mosquito Mats and Coils namely; IS: 13438: 1992 and IS: 13439: 1992 which are voluntary in nature. So far only one manufacturer has obtained licence from BIS for use of ISI mark for mosquito mats.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture, which is the administrative Ministry for Insecticides Act, 1968, has advised that any insecticide which is to be used/manufactured in the country is required to be necessarily registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee registers the insecticides after satisfying itself regarding its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. To satisfy about the safety, the Registration Committee examines the toxicity data as per the prescribed guidelines and only those chemicals which satisfy the prescribed safety parameters are granted registrations for use as mosquito repellents.

मध्य प्रदेश में गैर-आदिवासी क्षेत्रों को रियायती दर पर खाद्यान्न दिया जाना

260. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा:

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत सरकार द्वारा गत वर्ष सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत निर्गम मूल्यों को बढ़ाने से गैर-आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में गेहूं और चावल के उठाव में कमी आयी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को अधिक कारगर बनाते हुए गैर-आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवन यापन करने वाले व्यक्तियों को भी रियायती दर का खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा; और

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश के जिन 75 विकास खंडों को सुनिश्चित रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत चयन किया गया है उन्हें रियायती दर का खाद्यान्न कब से उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान खुले बाजार में उचित मूल्य पर गेहूं और चावल के आसानी से उपलब्ध होने के कारण सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत गेहूं और चावल के उठान में कमी आ रही है। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के खाद्यान्नों के केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य में पिछली वृद्धि 1.2.94 को लागू की गई थी।

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार पहले से ही निम्नलिखित स्कीमों पर अमल कर रही है जिनके अंतर्गत गैर-जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में भी समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को रियायती दरों पर खाद्यान्न जारी किए जाते हैं:

(1) जवाहर रोजगार योजना।

(2) खाद्य उत्पादों का निर्माण करने के लिए रोजगार सृजन योजना के तहत गरीबी रेखा से नीचे आने वाले परिवारों को गेहूं और चावल रियायती दर पर उपलब्ध कराना जो सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए निर्धारित केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य से 1000/- रुपए प्रति मीटरी टन कम है।

(3) अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति/अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के होस्टलों को गेहूं और चावल रिलीज करना जिसका मूल्य सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए निर्धारित केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य से 500/- रुपए प्रति मीटरी टन कम है बशर्ते उपर्युक्त होस्टलों में रहने वाले कम से कम दो-तिहाई व्यक्ति अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति/अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग से सम्बन्धित हों।

(4) माडर्न फूड इंडस्ट्रीज इण्डिया लिमिटेड को ब्रेड बनाने और शक्तिवर्द्धक खाद्य पदार्थों (एनर्जी फूड) का उत्पादन करने के लिए सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य से 1000/- रुपए प्रति मीटरी टन कम मूल्य पर गेहूं रिलीज करना बशर्ते कि वे 800 ग्राम और 400 ग्राम की ब्रेड के मूल्यों में क्रमश: 50 पैसे और 25 पैसे की कमी करें।

(5) पांचवीं कक्षा तक के स्कूली बच्चों के लिए चुने हुए ब्लाकों में "मिड-डे-मील स्कीम" जिसके अधीन मुफ्त खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं।